United Nations A/63/418/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2008

Original: Arabic

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 53 (a)

Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/63/418, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 24th and 31st meetings, on 4 November and 11 December 2008. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.24 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.11 and A/C.2/63/L.56

2. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty" (A/C.2/63/L.11), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998, 58/221 of 23 December 2003, 59/246 of 22 December 2004 and 61/214 of 20 December 2006,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/63/418 and Add.1-2.

08-64729 (E) 161208

"*Recognizing* the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including access to microfinance and microcredit,

"*Recognizing also* that microfinance, including microcredit programmes, has succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in assisting people in overcoming poverty and reducing their vulnerability to crisis, and has led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream economic and political processes of society,

"*Recognizing further* that the majority of the world's poor still do not have access to financial services and that microcredit and microfinance are the subject of significant demand worldwide,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of providing access to microfinance instruments, such as credit, savings and other financial products and services, for people living in poverty,

"*Bearing in mind also* that microcredit programmes have benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

"*Noting with appreciation* the establishment of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors to promote the building of inclusive financial sectors to meet the needs and demands of poor people everywhere, building on the creation of the 'Blue Book' as a tool for policymakers seeking to build more inclusive financial sectors,

"*Noting* events organized for the promotion of inclusive financial sectors, including the convening of the Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada, from 12 to 15 November 2006,

"*Welcoming* the efforts made in the field of property rights, and noting that an enabling environment at all levels, including transparent regulatory systems and competitive markets, fosters the mobilization of resources and access to finance for people living in poverty,

"*Noting with appreciation* the contribution of awards and prizes to increasing the visibility and awareness of the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, most notably the awarding of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty;

"2. *Welcomes* the successful observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, which constituted a special occasion to raise awareness and share best practices and lessons learned on microcredit and microfinance;

"3. *Recognizes* that access to microfinance and microcredit can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

"4. *Underlines* the need for greater access to microcredit and microfinance for small farmers in developing countries, which can contribute to increased agricultural productivity;

"5. *Recognizes* that microfinance has experienced tremendous growth in the number of people served and the diversity of financial services offered, and that, along with the growth in numbers served and products and services offered, there has also been a large increase in the number of microfinance providers, including in the public sector, all of which share the common characteristic of providing financial services to poor and socio-economically vulnerable people who would not normally be served by traditional financial institutions;

"6. *Notes* the lack of relevant statistical data on inclusive financial sectors, in particular microfinance and microcredit programmes, in particular at the national and regional levels, and in this regard invites the international community, in particular the donor community, to support developing countries in collecting and preserving necessary statistical data and information on this issue, specifically on defining and measuring access to financial services and products at the country level and measuring the type, quality and usage of such services and products over time;

"7. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to fully maximize the role of microfinance tools, including microcredit for poverty eradication and especially for the empowerment of women, and to ensure that best practices in the microfinance sector are widely disseminated;

"8. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders to support, in a coordinated manner, the efforts of developing countries in capacity-building for microfinance and microcredit institutions to expand their products and services, including by improving their policy and regulatory framework;

"9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting policies to facilitate the expansion of microcredit and microfinance institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote access to sustainable financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering such financial services to the poor;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Eradication of poverty and other development issues'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty" (A/C.2/63/L.56), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.11.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.56 (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

6. Before the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.56, the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), made a statement (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution statements were made by the representative of the United States of America, France (on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.25 and A/C.2/63/L.58

9. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/63/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006 and 62/205 of 19 December 2007,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

"*Recalling further* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Concerned* by the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

"*Reaffirming* that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, including employment generation and decent work,

"*Expressing concern* that poverty is more widespread than previously estimated and that it will increase owing to the global crises in finance, food and energy and jeopardize the achievement of the internationally agreed developing goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Also expressing concern* that the number of people living in poverty in the world is now significantly higher than previously estimated and that this situation may deteriorate further and, inter alia, jeopardize the development gains made by developing countries and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, owing to the interrelated and mutually reinforcing financial, food and energy crises, as well as climate change, and in this regard emphasizing the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies,

"*Recognizing* that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* the contributions of South-South cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

"*Acknowledging* that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

"3. *Decides* that the overall action theme for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) shall be 'Renewing commitment to eradicate poverty: the need for greater international cooperation and solidarity';

"4. *Also decides* to have a sub-theme or cluster of themes biennially, aimed at focusing the Second Decade on specific activities for poverty eradication, and in this regard decides to adopt 'Full employment and decent work for all' as the theme for the biennium 2009-2010;

"5. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies;

"7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"9. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for All programmes as tools to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education by 2015;

"10. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

"11. *Calls upon* the international community to move expeditiously to put in place new instruments and to expand and strengthen existing instruments to support developing countries in order to prevent, and deal with the existing, crises, including the food crisis, and urges that this stepped-up assistance should be additional to official development assistance;

"12. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

"13. *Also recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

"14. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to implement the goals of the Second Decade through adequate, predictable financial resources and technology transfer;

"15. *Expresses deep concern* at the declining trend in the level of official development assistance since 2006, notes that if current trends persist, it will seriously hamper the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty, and in this regard, reiterates the significance of increased financing for development, including the need to meet the long-standing target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.2 per cent of gross national product to the least developed countries by 2010;

"16. *Calls upon* the agencies of the United Nations system to mainstream poverty eradication into their activities and to report annually on the actions taken in support of the overall theme of the Second Decade, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint a focal point for inter-agency coordination in this regard;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a detailed plan of action on the implementation of the goals of the Second Decade, in close consultation with Member States;

"18. *Recognizes* the need to give its highest priority to the consideration of the item on poverty eradication on its agenda, and in that regard, as a contribution to the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), decides to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, devoted to the issue of poverty eradication, during its sixty-fifth session;

"19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled 'Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)'."

10. At its 31st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/63/L.58), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.25.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the 31st meeting, the representative of Afghanistan, in his capacity as facilitator, made an oral correction to draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.58 (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.58, as orally corrected (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), made a statement (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998, 58/221 of 23 December 2003, 59/246 of 22 December 2004 and 61/214 of 20 December 2006,

Recognizing the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including access to microfinance and microcredit,

Recognizing also that microfinance, in particular microcredit programmes, has succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in overcoming poverty and reducing the vulnerability of poor people to crisis and has led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream socio-economic and political processes of society, and bearing in mind that microfinance, in particular microcredit, has especially benefited women and has resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

Recognizing further that the majority of the world's poor still do not have access to financial services and that microcredit and microfinance are the subject of significant demand worldwide,

Bearing in mind the importance of providing access to microfinance instruments and services, such as credit, savings, insurance, money transfers and other financial products and services, for poor people,

Recognizing that inclusive financial sectors can offer appropriate financial services and products to poor people,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors to promote the building of inclusive financial sectors to meet the needs and demands of poor people, and noting also the recommendations containing key messages to build inclusive financial sectors put forward in June 2008,

Noting events organized for the promotion of inclusive financial sectors, including the convening of the Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada, from 12 to 15 November 2006,

Welcoming the efforts made in the field of property rights, and noting that an enabling environment at all levels, including transparent regulatory systems and competitive markets, fosters the mobilization of resources and access to finance for people living in poverty,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of awards and prizes to increasing the visibility and awareness of the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, most notably the awarding of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the successful observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, which constituted a special occasion to raise awareness and share best practices and lessons learned on microcredit and microfinance;

3. *Recognizes* that access to microfinance and microcredit can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Underlines* the need for greater access to microfinance, including microcredit, in developing countries, in particular for small farmers, which can contribute to increased agricultural productivity and rural development;

5. *Also underlines* the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them inclusive, thus expanding access to financial services;

6. *Recognizes* that microfinance has experienced tremendous growth in the number of people served and the diversity of financial services offered, and that, along with the growth in numbers served as well as products and services offered, there has also been a large increase in the number of public and private microfinance providers, all of which share the common characteristic of providing financial services to poor and socio-economically vulnerable people, as well as micro-entrepreneurs who would not normally be served, or are underserved, by traditional financial institutions;

7. *Notes* that, despite progress, there is still lack of relevant statistical data on inclusive financial sectors, in particular microcredit and microfinance programmes, in particular at the national and regional levels, and in this regard invites the international community, in particular the donor community, to support developing countries in collecting and preserving necessary statistical data and information on this issue, specifically on defining and measuring access to financial services and products at the country level and measuring the type, quality and usage of such services and products over time;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to fully maximize the role of microfinance instruments, including microcredit for poverty eradication and especially for the empowerment of women and rural populations, and to ensure that best practices in the microfinance sector are widely disseminated;

9. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, regional development banks and other relevant stakeholders to support, financially and technically, in a coordinated manner, the efforts of developing countries in capacity-building for microcredit and microfinance institutions to expand their products and services, including by improving their policy and regulatory framework;

---

[1] A/63/159.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

10. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting policies to facilitate the expansion of microcredit and microfinance institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote access to sustainable financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles, the promotion of financial literacy and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor;

11. *Encourages* Member States to adopt coherent financial regulatory frameworks, including in consultation with microfinance providers, that can effectively protect the stability of their national financial systems and increase access of the poor and micro and small enterprises to financial services, and also to protect consumers, in particular the poor, and in this regard invites the development partners to support the efforts of developing countries in the promotion of entrepreneurship development programmes, including for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;

12. *Recognizes* that the current financial crisis can adversely impact financial flows to microcredit and microfinance institutions as well as the services that they provide to the poor, and emphasizes that such instruments should be protected, as appropriate, from potential credit deficiency;

13. *Decides* to devote one plenary meeting at its sixty-fifth session to the consideration of the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit, with a view to broadening and deepening the discussion about microcredit and microfinance and inclusive financial sectors;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues".

Draft resolution II
Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006 and 62/205 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Expressing concern that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and midway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals target date, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary between countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Concerned by the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

---

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa, and in least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment-generation and decent work,

Expressing concern that the number of people living in poverty is higher than previously estimated,[5] despite significant progress, and that the current financial and food insecurity crises and unpredictable energy prices may pose significant challenges for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging that good governance at national and international levels and sustained and inclusive economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity, and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);[6]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of

[5] Under August 2008 World Bank estimates calculated using a revised poverty line.
[6] A/63/190.

developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

6. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

7. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and on donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate predictable financial resources on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

9. *Acknowledges* efforts of developed countries to increase their assistance for development, including commitments by some developed countries to increase official development assistance; notes with concern, however, the overall decline in official development assistance in 2006 and 2007, and calls for the fulfilment of all official development assistance-related commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach the target of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries; and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

10. *Welcomes* recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action,[7] and the resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with countries' strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

11. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses

[7] A/63/539, annex.

that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

12. *Also recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of extreme poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries increase their efforts to be integrated into the world economy in order to share the benefits of globalization;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a focal point from within the United Nations system to coordinate the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in close consultation with Member States;

14. *Considers* that a theme for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), to be reviewed at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, shall be "Full employment and decent work for all", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at that session a report that details the current response of the United Nations system to the theme;

15. *Recognizes* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the item on poverty eradication in its agenda, and in that regard, as a contribution to the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), decides to convene, during its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme for the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out so as to remain within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012-2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty", and requests the Secretary-General to brief Member States orally on progress in the implementation of efforts related to the theme for the Second Decade.